

NY 100-102397

The July 18, 1955, issue of the "National Guardian," page seven, column five, reflects an advertisement that the Arts, Sciences and Professions Starlight Forum has opened its season in Penthouse 10A, 59 West 71st Street and JOHN KILLENS, author of "Youngblood," was to be a speaker at 8:30 P.M. on July 24, 1955. This article advised that for information contact the New York Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, 35 West 64th Street, New York City.

The 1949 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities, cited the "National Guardian" as a publication launched in New York in 1948, aiming at national circulation, which they found to be from its inception notoriously Stalinistic in its staff, writers, management and content.

(1949 report of the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, page 394).

The March, 1948 issue of "The Public Record," the monthly publication of the United Public Workers of America -

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CIO, reflected on page seven, a photograph of JOHN KILLENS and it also reflected that he was the Business Agent of Local 10, United Public Workers of America - CIO.

It is to be noted, concerning the United Public Workers of America, Senate Document Number 89, dated October 19, 1951, entitled, "Communist Domination of Certain Unions" is a report of the Sub-Committee "On Labor and Labor Management Relations". The subject matter of this Senate document is the reports of the particular committee designated by the Congress of Industrial Organizations to hear and decide the charges of Communist domination against nine of its affiliates.

Page 133 of the document reflects "...On the basis of all of the evidence presented today, the committee unanimously concludes that the policies and activities of the United Public Workers of America are consistently directed toward the establishment of the program and purposes of the Communist Party rather than the objectives and the policies set forth in the Congress of Industrial Organization's Constitution."

The Committee requested that the United Public Workers of America be expelled from the Congress of Industrial Organization.

On March 1, 1950, the CIO officially expelled the United Public Workers of America from its rank as a CIO affiliate. This action was taken at a hearing held in February 1950, at which time it was decided that the United Public Workers of America had consistently followed the Communist Party line rather than strictly union policies and objectives laid down by the CIO.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in February, 1955, that on January 28, 1955, the California Quarterly Forum, under the auspices of the "California Quarterly", was held at Channing Hall, First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, 2936 West Eighth Street,

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Los Angeles, California. Informant further advised that this Forum was for the purpose of JOHN O. KILLENS to give a resume' of his book, "Youngblood".

An article appearing in the October 21, 1951 edition of the "Daily People's World" described a new quarterly magazine, identified as "The California Quarterly", a new "progressive publication" with editorial offices at 7070 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on March 27, 1953, that in March, 1953, THOMAS MC GRATH, a member of the Editorial Board of "The California Quarterly" since its inception, stated in a discussion of the policies of "The California Quarterly" that the magazine is necessarily one of a "Marxist-Leninist objective".

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[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on March 15, 1952, that [redacted] as of March, 1952, was a member at large of the Los Angeles County Communist Party.

CALIF.

"The California Quarterly" Volume three, number three, issued late in 1954, and as early as May, 1955, was the latest issue of "The California Quarterly" and identifies PHILIP STEVENSON as the Managing Editor and THOMAS MC GRATH as a member at large of the Editorial Board.

CALIF

"THE CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY"

ROY HUGGINS, Malibu Beach, California, self-admitted former member of the Los Angeles County Communist Party in 1940 and between 1943 and 1947, testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Los Angeles, California, on September 29, 1952, at which time he identified PHILIP STEVENSON as a member of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, sometime during that period.

1940's

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[ ] who is in a position to furnish accurate information and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in March, 1955, that the Hungarian Legation in Washington, D. C., had mailed invitations for receptions to be held at the Hungarian Legation on April 2 and 4, 1955, both in "celebration of the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the Soviet army."

[ ] who is in a position to furnish accurate information and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on March 15, 1955, that the reception by the Hungarian Legation on April 2, 1955, was for approximately 200 individuals, who were described as being from the "Hungarian colony". The informant advised that the reception on April 4, 1955, was for approximately 300 individuals, described as diplomatic personnel. b2 b7D

[ ] who is in a position to furnish accurate information, furnished information on March 12, 1955, which reflected that the Hungarian Legation, Washington, D.C., sent out letters with printed invitations on this date, which read as follows:

"In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the Soviet army, the Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic and Madam Szarka request the honor of the company of [ ] at the reception on Monday, the fourth of April, from seven to nine o'clock, at the Legation."

Informant advised that one of the above letters was directed to Mr. and Mrs. JOHN KILLIUS, 652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

The election records for the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, as caused to be checked by SE [ ] on March 2, 1955, reflected that JOHN O. KILLENS, 66 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, New York, registered a preference for the American Labor Party in 1949. These records, as caused to b7C

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be checked by SE [redacted] on March 10, 1955, reflected that JOHN O. KILLENS, 652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, registered a preference for the American Labor Party for the years 1950 through 1952.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

The records of the Atlanta Credit Bureau, Atlanta, Georgia, as checked by SE [redacted] on April 8, 1955, and records of the Atlanta, Georgia, Police Department, as checked by SE [redacted] on April 12, 1955, failed to reflect any record of the subject, b7C

The 1953 election records of the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, as caused to be checked by SE [redacted] on March 2, 1955, reflected that JOHN KILLENS, 652 Lafayette Avenue, registered a preference for one of the two major political parties in 1953; was 37 years of age; married; five years in the city and State; 4 years in the district; and was born in the United States.

~~WILLIE LEE COLEMAN KILLENS~~ ~~WILLIE C. KILLENS~~  
~~MRS. CHARLES MILES KILLENS~~

The election records for the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, reflected on March 2, 1955, that the subject's wife, GRACE, of 66 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, New York, registered a preference for the ALP in 1949. These election records for 1949 also reflected the following regarding the subject's mother, WILLIE KILLENS: residence - 66 Hancock Street; age - 53; born in the United States; first vote; registered a preference for the ALP.

~~AMERICAN LABOR PARTY - 1949-1952~~ AGE 53-1949

The election records for the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, as caused to be checked by SE [redacted] on March 10, 1955, reflected that the subject's wife, GRACE, and his mother, WILLIE C. KILLENS, both of 652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, registered a preference for the ALP for the years 1950 through 1952. 652 LAFAYETTE AVE.  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, as caused to be checked by SE [redacted] on February 1, 1955, reflected that a suit was brought against the subject on October 8, 1951, by the Langsburg Brothers, New York City, for \$32.80. b7C

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The records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, New York City, as caused to be checked by SE [REDACTED] on February 3, 1955, failed to reflect a current driver's license or a 1954 registration for the subject or his wife.

New York informants, who have furnished reliable information in the past and who are familiar with some Communist activities in the New York area, were contacted in January and February 1955, with negative results. b7C

The following description of the subject was furnished from Veterans Administration records, New York City; [REDACTED] Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Georgia; and records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Atlanta, Georgia:

Name	JOHN OLIVER KILLENS
Aliases	John O. Killens John Killens
Race	Negro
Residence	652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
Date of Birth	January 14, 1916, Macon, Bibb County, Georgia.
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Height	5'9"
Weight	140 lbs.
Marital Status	Married
Immediate Relatives:	
Father	CHARLES MILES KILLENS address unknown
Mother	WILLIE LEE COLEMAN KILLENS 652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York
Wife	GRACE WARD JONES; date of birth [REDACTED] at Brooklyn.
Son	JON CHARLES KILLENS; date of birth [REDACTED] Brooklyn, New York; resides with parents

b7C

652 LAFAYETTE AVE.  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Daughter

BARBARA ELLEN KILLENS:

b7C

date of birth [REDACTED]

Washington, D.C., resides with  
parents

652 LAFAYETTE AVE.  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Military Service:  
United States  
Army

July 17, 1942 - December 3,  
1945

Army Serial  
Number

33192284

Veterans Administration

Claim Number

7348273

- P -

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
[redacted] Baltimore Office	Used to document	[redacted]		b7C
[redacted]	4/8/53	2/9/53	SA [redacted]	100-80675-5166
			[redacted]	b7C
[redacted]	JOHN KILLENS scheduled speaker for "ASP STarlight Forum".	6/3/54	SA [redacted]	100-93553-1B512
	12/14/54	12/8/54	"	100-102397-5
	Used to document the New York Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions.			
[redacted]	1/22/55	2/3/55	SA [redacted] (oral)	[redacted] b2 b7D

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
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1/22/55

2/3/55

SA

(oral)

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Used to document the Hollywood Arts, Sciences  
and Professions Council.

Used to document the American Labor Party.

Used to document the American Labor Party.

One JOHN  
KILLENS  
executed Delegates  
card at AYC  
Convention.

9/27/41

Subject associate

Spring of  
1949

b7C

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D.)

INFORMANTS (CONT'D.)

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
	[redacted] had information that subject was known to [redacted]	11/8,9/54		
	Subject was left a message by JAMES JACKSON	1/8/51	b7C b7D	

b2

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D.)



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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D.)

INFORMANTS (CONT'D.)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
<div></div>	11/30/54	1/28/55	SA <div></div> (oral)	100-102397-11
	Used to document	<div></div>		b7C
	Used to document the Chicago Council of American Soviet Friendship.			
	Subject's name            4/17/54 in possession of New Century Publishers			
	Used to document Freedom Associates			
	b2			
	b7D			

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D.)

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
[redacted]	1/28/55	2/1/55	SA [redacted] (written)	[redacted] b2 b7C b7D
[redacted] (former LA informant, concealed by request)	Used to document "The California Quarterly".			
[redacted]	Used to document [redacted]			
[redacted]	2,4/55	3/2/55	SA [redacted] (oral)	100-102397-26 b7C
[redacted]	2,4/55	3/15/55	SA [redacted] (oral)	100-102397-26

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
[REDACTED] Anonymous source as reflected in WFO let to Director, entitled, "JOHN KILLIUS, IS-HU", dated 4/5/55.	Letter from Hungarian Legation, Wash., D.C., directed to Mr. and Mrs. JOHN KILLIUS.	3/12/55		

New York informants mentioned in the details, as being contacted with negative results, are as follows:

Contacted on 2/11/55 by SA

Contacted on 2/4/55 by SA

Contacted on 1/28/55 by SA  
RICHARD H. BLASSER.

Contacted on 2/1/55 by SA

Contacted on 2/1/55 by SA  
ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON.

Contacted on 2/3/55 by SA

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in this report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

MISCELLANEOUS

It is to be noted that GRACE KILLENS, wife of the subject, is on the Security Index of the NYO. Bufile 100-406272; NYO file 100-102803.

The pretext telephone call to the subject on 3/12/54, mentioned in the details, was made by SA [redacted] to elicit from him information regarding residence and marital status of GRACE KILLENS, his wife. Employment pretext was used. b7C

The pretext telephone call, mentioned in this report as being made on 9/14/55, was made by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES to the subject to elicit from him his place of residence.

[redacted] b7E

LEADS

NEW YORK

At Brooklyn, New York

1. Will determine if the subject has any other employment than that of a writer.
2. Will verify residence at 652 Lafayette Ave., B'klyn, NY, through neighborhood investigation or personal observation.

WASHINGTON FIELD

At Washington, D.C.

1. Will determine from records of Terrell Law School if subject attended that law school from 1939-42.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D.)

LEADS (CONT'D.)

2. In view of the fact subject formerly resided and worked in Washington, D.C., will furnish the NYO with any pertinent information that may appear in the WFO indices.

3. In report of SA LEWIS E. GLENN, dated November 29, 1949, at Washington Field, entitled, "Communist Infiltration of United Public Workers of America, CIO; IS-C," it is reflected that during the course of an investigation conducted in 1942, under the provisions of the Hatch Act, KILLENS was interviewed. If WFO is in possession of more detailed information regarding this interview than that reflected in SA GLENN's report it should be reflected in a WFO report re subject.

It is to be noted that WFO in letter to Director, dated April 5, 1955, entitled "JOHN KILLIUS; IS-HU," requested a copy of New York report regarding the subject. It is also noted that a copy of WFO letter was filed in WFO 105-4649-Sub I.

REFERENCES San Francisco airtel to NY, 1/26/55.  
NY airtel to San Francisco, 2/1/55.  
Memo of SA [redacted] Chicago, to SAC,  
Chicago, 2/11/55, forwarded to NY by R/S dated 2/16/55.  
Copy of Memo of SA [redacted]  
Los Angeles, to SAC, LA, 3/10/55.  
NY letter to Atlanta, 3/31/55.  
Copy of Memo of SA [redacted] Los Angeles, to SAC, LA, dated 4/20/55. b7C  
Atlanta letter to NY, 5/26/55.  
Washington Field letter to Director, FBI, 4/5/55.  
Report of SA [redacted] San Francisco, 6/16/55.  
NY airtel to Chicago and Los Angeles, 8/19/55.  
Los Angeles airtel to NY, 8/25/55.  
Chicago letter to NY, 8/31/55.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D.)

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CF

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Reporting Office <b>NEW YORK</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>12/2/55</b>	Investigative Period <b>10/26; 11/10,23,28/55</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JOHN OLIVER KILLENS</b>		Report made by <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	Typed By <b>mel</b>

**CHARACTER OF CASE**

**SECURITY MATTER - C**

*AN AGENT  
WISH TO ACQUIRE  
HIS BOND!*

*→ FBI ADV S him, in*

*weedy!*  
*program, file him*  
*to (from*  
*1/6 - 1/10/56*  
*only*

Subject self-employed as writer and is in process of writing a book. Subject resides with wife at 652 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. The National Council of Arts, Sciences and Professions announced a calendar of "ASP Starlight Forums" to be held in NYC on 7/10, 17, 24, 31; 8/7, 14, 21, 28/55, and **JOHN KILLENS**, not further identified, was scheduled to participate in the forums.

-P-

**DETAILS:**

**I. BACKGROUND**

**A. Employment**

On October 26, 1955, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation interviewed the subject under pretext, after having been first introduced to the subject by the subject's wife, at his residence at 652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. The subject advised that he is self-employed as a writer, that he is in the process of writing another book, which would be his second, and that he did not have time for other employment.

CC TO **USIA**  
REQ REC'D **7-18-61**  
**AUG 3 1961**  
ANS.  
BY *[Signature]*

*Re decision per the Killems*

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made 4- Bureau (105-37137) (R) 3- New York (100-102397)		<b>105-37137-6</b>	<b>EX-107</b>
		<b>17 DEC 5 1955</b>	

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**113 MAY 15 1972**

**50 DEC 14 1955**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**SUBV. CONTROL**

AGENCY **100-102397**  
REQ REC'D **2/20/70**  
REP'T FORW **3/6/70**  
BY **JES:sp**  
*Mr. Cha. [Signature]*

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-102397

It is to be noted that subject is the author of a book entitled, "Youngblood."

Concerning "Youngblood," the subject advised that this book had sold better than he had anticipated, consequently, he did not have any extra copies available. The subject stated that "Youngblood" would soon be published in the pocket-sized edition.

## II. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

### 1. Communist Party Front Organizations

T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished literature on July 21, 1955, which reflected that the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions announced a calendar of "ASP Starlight Forums" to be held at 59 West 71st Street, New York City, Penthouse 10A. These forums were scheduled to take place on July 10, 17, 24, 31; August 7, 14, 21, 28, 1955. JOHN KILLENS, not further identified, was among those scheduled to participate in the forums.

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions has been cited as a Communist front (Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities...House Report Number 1954, April 7, 1950) on page 82 in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," dated May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

-P-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-102397  
INFORMANTS

Identity  
of Source

Date of Activity  
Or Description  
of Information

JOHN KILLENS  
scheduled to  
participate in  
"ASP Starlight  
Forums."

Date  
Received  
7/21/55

Agent to  
whom  
Furnished  
SA

File Number  
where  
Located

100-93553-  
1714 att. 1,2,3

b7C

Careful consideration has been given to the source concealed and the T symbol was utilized in this report only in that instance where the identity of the source must be concealed.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The pretext interview with the subject mentioned in the details was conducted by SA [redacted] under the guise that [redacted]

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b7E

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

1. Will contact appropriate informants to determine the current activities of the subject.

2. Will report the results of the investigation requested in report of SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES, NY, 10/12/55, from WFO.

REFERENCE

Report of BENJAMIN F. GRAVES, New York, 10/12/55.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D.C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/27/55</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>11/2, 25, 28-30; 12/5, 7/55</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>JOHN OLIVER KILLENS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

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EOW

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

*11/21/02 SP2MUT/cpt*

Additional background information concerning subject set forth. During interview 2/26/42 subject admitted being a member of WCDA and associated with American Youth Congress and National Negro Congress. Informant advised subject member of Washington Bookshop and other informants provided information which showed subject was member of UNAVA. Informants also advised that the name **JOHN KILLENS** in possession of

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- RUC -

**DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**I. BACKGROUND**

**A. EDUCATION**

On November 25, 1955,

Washington, D.C.,  the Terrill Law School, made available to SA  the record of subject's attendance at this school. The record shows that **JOHN OLIVER KILLENS**, date of birth January 14, 1916,

b7C

AGENCY *1cc SAC*  
REQ REC'D *2/20/70*  
REP'T FORW *3/6/70*  
BY *JH12*

TO *USIA*  
REQ REC'D *7-18-61*  
AUG 3 1961  
ANS  
BY *Bq. cf*

*Re dissem per TW Kitchens*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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**13 MAY 15 1972** THIS REPORT

- 4 - Bureau
- 3 - New York (100-102397) (RM)
- 1 - Washington Field (105-11703)

105-37137-7

REC'D

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enrolled at the Terrell Law School on September 30, 1939, and continued until July 3, 1942, at which time he withdrew to enter the United States Army. During KILLENS' attendance at the school he was employed as a clerk at the National Labor Relations Board. The records show further that no degree was conferred, and that subject's parents were shown as CHARLES M. and WILLIE C. KILLENS.

*RECORDED*  
*KILLENS*  
*D.C.*  
B. RESIDENCES

The above school records reflected that in 1939 the subject resided at 3120 13th Street, N.W., and that in 1942 he lived with his parents at 430 21st Street, N.E. *Wash. D.C.*

*KILLENS*  
The records of the Washington, D.C., Credit Bureau as checked by SE [redacted] on November 29, 1955, reflected that as of October 6, 1947, the subject and his wife, GRACE, had been residing in Apartment 11, 2007 Maryland Avenue, N.E., since April 17, 1946. Previous residences in addition to those set forth above were shown as 722 Hobart Street, N.W., and 501 U Street, N.W. *Wash. D.C.*

b7C

*Dir. - Mr. Oliver*  
*D.C.*  
The 1954 Washington, D.C., City Directory shows that one JOHN O. KILLENS resided in Apartment 11, 2007 Maryland Avenue, N.E., and the current Washington, D.C., Telephone Directory, corrected to September 15, 1955, shows one JOHN O. KILLENS as residing at 2704 Irving Street, S.E. *KILLENS* *Wash. D.C.*

On November 25, 1955, [redacted] Clerk, National Capital Housing Authority, Frederick Douglass Housing Project, Alabama Avenue at Stanton Road, S.E., advised SA [redacted] that residents at 2704 Irving Street, S.E., are one [redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted] signed the lease for the above premises on December 6, 1954, and at the time of signing he resided at 2007 Maryland Avenue, N.E. The person listed on the lease as the one to notify in case of emergency is CHARLES M. KILLENS, 430 21st Street, N.E., [redacted]

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*RECORDED*  
C. EMPLOYMENT

Credit records mentioned above show that as of October 6, 1947, the subject was employed as Business Agent for the United Public Workers of America, Congress of Industrial Organizations, Local Number 10, 718 5th Street, N.W., having been

appointed to this position in July, 1946. These records show further that the subject was in the United States Army from July, 1942, until December, 1945, and that from April 27, 1936, until his induction in the United States Army, KILLENS was employed as a Clerk by the National Labor Relations Board, Washington, D.C.

Subject's file at the National Labor Relations Board was reviewed in early 1942 in connection with a Hatch Act investigation. This file reflected that KILLENS was employed at National Labor Relations Board on April 27, 1936, as a messenger and at the time of file review his position was Assistant Mail and Files Clerk.

D. CRIMINAL

The files of the Metropolitan Police Department as checked by SE [redacted] on November 28, 1955, reflected no record for JOHN KILLENS; at all times an indefinite number of unidentified records are out of file and not available for review. b7C

II. ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNIST PARTY FRONTS

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On February 26, 1942, JOHN OLIVER KILLENS was interviewed under oath by SA [redacted]. At that time KILLENS stated that he had been a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. He also stated at the time that he had been a delegate to a conference of the American Youth Congress held in 1941, and that he had participated in the activities and had made contributions to the National Negro Congress, but that he was never an active member of this organization. b7C

The Washington Committee for Democratic Action, the American Youth Congress, and the National Negro Congress have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On December 13, 1947, Confidential Informant [ ] who was in a position to furnish information concerning the Washington Bookshop Association, advised that the name JOHN O. KILLENS, 430 21st Street, N.E., was among those names contained in the expired membership list of the Washington Bookshop Association, which organization has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. b2 b7D

In August and October, 1946, Confidential Informant [ ] who was in a position to furnish reliable information, made information available which showed that JOHN O. KILLENS, 2007 Maryland Avenue, N.E., was Commander of the Washington Chapter of the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America. b2 b7D

In addition to the above, Confidential Informant [ ] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available on April 24, 1951, a souvenir program entitled "Nation's Capital City-wide Veterans Conference", which conference was held on May 31 and June 1, 2, 1946. This pamphlet shows that the conference was sponsored by the Washington Provisional Committee of the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America, and that JOHN OLIVER KILLENS was the Chairman of this Committee.

The list of events contained in the program showed that JOHN OLIVER KILLENS was scheduled to give the keynote speech at a session of the conference scheduled for May 31, 1946, at the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

The United Negro and Allied Veterans of America has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

### III. MISCELLANEOUS

On April 20, 1948, Confidential Informant [ ] who was in a position to furnish reliable information, advised that the name JOHN KILLENS, 2007 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Apartment 11, was in the possession of [ ]. b2 b7D

On August 4, 1954, Confidential Informant [ ] who was in a position to furnish reliable information, advised that the name JOHN KILLENS was in the possession of [ ]. b7C

✓ On February 26, 1953, Confidential Informant [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that [redacted] was then a member of the Communist Party. This same informant advised periodically during 1954 that [redacted] was a current member of the Communist Party and during this time was a member of the City Committee of the Communist Party in the District of Columbia.

b2  
b7C  
b7D

✓ On November 2, 1955, Confidential Informant [redacted] a self-admitted former member of the Communist Party and Communist Political Association, 1934 - 1946, who was active in secret government Communist Party groups in a leadership capacity in Washington, D.C., and Denver, Colorado, 1935 - 1946, and who is in a position to furnish information concerning Communist activities within the National Labor Relations Board, advised that he recalls the subject as being a National Labor Relations Board employee, but did not know the subject to be a member of the Communist Party while employed there.

IV. SIGNED STATEMENT FURNISHED BY SUBJECT

"Washington, D.C.  
February 26, 1942

"Statement of JOHN OLIVER KILLENS, made in the presence of Special Agent R. F. RYAN and Stenographer [redacted] Federal Bureau of Investigation. Questions by Mr. RYAN.

b7C

- Q. Mr. KILLENS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was empowered by the 77th Congress of the United States, under Public Law 135, to investigate the employees of the Federal Government who are alleged members of subversive organizations or who advocate the overthrow of the Federal Government, and make a report to Congress. The purpose of this interview is to allow you an opportunity to answer questions concerning information which has been received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation about alleged activities on your part. The questions I am about to ask you may be answered if you so desire, and you will be given an opportunity to make any statement of your own which you feel will fairly present your side of the question. A copy of the report of the investigation, incorporating your statement, will be furnished

"to the agency which employs you. Do you have any objection to making this statement under oath?

"A. No.

"Q. Would you raise your right hand, please? Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

"A. I do.

"Q. Will you state your full name, please?

"A. JOHN OLIVER KILLENS.

"Q. Where do you live?

"A. 430 Twenty-first Street, N.E.

"Q. Where are you employed?

"A. National Labor Relations Board.

"Q. In what capacity?

"A. Clerk - classification clerk.

"Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member of any organization which advocates the overthrow of the Federal Government?

"A. No, indeed.

"Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member of any organization which advocates disloyalty to the Federal Government?

"A. No.

"Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action?

"A. I am not now. I have been.

"Q. What occasioned your membership in the Washington Committee for Democratic Action?

"A. I was approached by someone (I don't remember who) who showed me the program of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and I thought it was a nice program, so I joined, about three years ago, I believe, I was a member about a year. I did not renew my membership.

"Q. In what activities of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action were you a participant?

"A. I don't believe I was a participant in any activities. I was just a member, that is all.



- "Q. Did you ever contribute money or services to the Washington Committee for Democratic Action?
- "A. I contributed one dollar membership; that's all.
- "Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the American Youth Congress?
- "A. I was a delegate to the American Youth Congress last year.
- "Q. A delegate from where?
- "A. National Council of Law Students.
- "Q. Did you contribute money or services to the American Youth Congress?
- "A. I did not.
- "Q. Did you participate in any of its activities?
- "A. I attended a Congress in July, I believe. As a delegate I participated in the conference that was held, but nothing else.
- "Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the National Negro Congress?
- "A. I was never an official member of the National Negro Congress.
- "Q. Have you ever participated in any of the activities of the National Negro Congress?
- "A. I am sure I have at various times participated in activities of the Congress in Washington.
- "Q. What was the nature of these activities?
- "A. I have attended various meetings on police brutality which the Congress sponsored, and the Congress--I believe they sponsored various drives throughout the year where you made contributions. I have made contributions to the Congress, about four years ago.
- "Q. Have you ever contributed services to the National Negro Congress?
- "A. I have not.
- "Q. At this time you may have the opportunity of making any statement of your own which you think is pertinent to this inquiry if you so desire.
- "A. I would like to state at the time of joining the Washington Committee for Democratic Action I did not think it was affiliated with any party or had any affiliations that advocated

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WFO 105-11703

"the overthrow of our Government or disloyalty to our Government. The same is true of the National Negro Congress and the American Youth Congress.

"Q. All right, thank you very much.

"Witness:  
"/s/R. F. RYAN  
"Special Agent  
"Federal Bureau of Investigation  
"Washington, D.C."

"/s/ JOHN O. KILLENS

- RUC -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



WFO 105-11703

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity Or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>	
[redacted] Anonymous					
[redacted] Anonymous					
[redacted] (Deemed Advisable)	Position in UNAVA	4/24/51	[redacted]	100-17799-1A(9)	
[redacted] (By request)	Subject's name in possession of [redacted]	4/20/48	[redacted]	65-1131-597 p. 2	b2 b7D b7C
[redacted]	Subject's name in possession of [redacted]	8/4/54	[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted] deceased)	Thumbnail [redacted] Thumbnail [redacted]				
[redacted] (By request)	Negative Contact 11/2/55			Instant report	

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and "T" symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the **identities** of the sources must be concealed.

REFERENCE

Report of SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES dated 10/12/55 at New York.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)  
 SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397)  
 SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
 SM-C

DATE 1/27/56

Rerep of SA [REDACTED] 11/21/02 12/2/55, NY. ~~seamus/et~~ b7C

Informants of the NYO were contacted in December, 1955, and early January, 1956, concerning the subject with negative results.

On 12/12/55, [REDACTED] furnished information with reference to a meeting of "Section Organizers," of Kings County CP, held that evening at Headquarters, 1212 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY. b2 b7D

The meeting proper was begun by GEORGE (believed to be GEORGE KIRSCHNER) and his remarks concerned political events which are being scheduled to occur, including:

The Brooklyn elections in the N double A (believed to be NAACP). GEORGE pointed out that the Negro leaders in Brooklyn want to unseat "President NORMAN JOHNSON and we believe it is a good effort. JOHNSON should step aside. The ministers are against JOHNSON".

GEORGE mentioned that a meeting with reference to the "N double A elections" was to occur at P.S. 35, Decatur St., and Lewis Ave. (No dates specified). GEORGE said that "We would like to see the slate of Rev. SHOCKLEY (phonetic) win. Negro leaders want to unseat JOHNSON and we think it is a good effort". GEORGE observed that of those on the JOHNSON slate, one JOHNNY KULLEM (phonetic) running against MC CABE (phonetic) should be salvaged. "Vote for the SHOCKLEY (phonetic) slate, except MC CABE".

Investigation is continuing to determine if the subject is identical with JOHNNY KULLEM (phonetic).

2- Bureau (105-37137)  
 1- NY 100-102397

CMH:val  
 (3)

RECORDED

INDEXED 70

105-37137-8

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)  
 FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397)  
 SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
 SM-C

DATE APR 10 1956

Re Bu o-1 dated 3/29/56, and NY let to Bureau dated 1/27/56.

On 2/15/56, NY 1212-S orally advised SA [REDACTED] that the subject in December, 1955, was elected as a member-at-large on the staff of the Brooklyn, NY, NAACP. b7C

The Philadelphia Office has furnished the NYO with a memorandum dated 2/9/56, which disclosed that the subject was the featured speaker of the "FRIDAY FORUM" held at Melrose Park, Pennsylvania on 12/9/55.

The subject elaborated on the following issues during the course of his speech: Discussion of a number of incidents occurring in the South in which the Civil Rights of Negroes were violated, Desegregation in schools and efforts by the NAACP to aid the Negro.

The subject also read a chapter from his new novel which is now in preparation. This novel deals with the problems of Negro soldiers during World War II, and according to the subject most of the action takes place in the South Pacific where he himself was stationed during the war.

A search of the indices of the NYO failed to reflect any information concerning the "FRIDAY FORUM".

The Philadelphia Office has been requested to furnish documentation for the above organization as well as to ascertain whether the subject mentioned any connection with the Brooklyn, NY, NAACP during his visit to Philadelphia on 12/9/55.

Upon receipt of the requested information the NYO will submit a report promptly in this matter.

- ② - Bureau (105-37137) (RM)  
 1 - New York (100-102397)

CMH:cam  
 (3)

4/21/56

SPAM/TKP

105-37137-9

14 APR 11 1956

SUBV. CONTROL

SAC, New York (100-102397)

June 27, 1956

RECORDED 49

Director, FBI (105-37137) -10

JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
SECURITY MATTER - CReurlet dated June 15, 1956, and accompanying  
report of Special Agent [REDACTED]

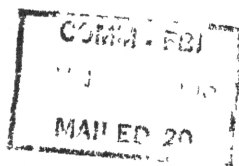
b7C

Authority to interview the subject is denied.

It is noted that you have developed no evidence of Communist Party activity on the part of the subject. His principal activity has to do with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is employed as a writer and his books deal with the controversial subject of race relations. [REDACTED] was interviewed and found uncooperative. In the absence of some indication that this interview will be productive, authority for it is denied.

b7C

YELLOW: Not on SI. He was member Washington Committee for Democratic Action, 1942; delegate to American Youth Congress, 1941; active but not member of National Negro Congress, 1942. One John Killens was commander, Washington Chapter UNAVA, 1946; name John Killens on membership list Washington Bookshop Association, 1947. Subject registered ALP, 1950-1952; spoke before HASP, Los Angeles, and at Friday Forum, Philadelphia, 1955. Has been acquainted with communist leader James E. Jackson prior to 1951.

OTM:ph:plc  
(4)

JUN 28 10 56 AM '56

FBI - JUSTICE  
REC'D BY MAIL

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

11/21/52

SPARKS/let

JFC

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)  
 SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397)  
 SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
 SM-C

DATE

6/15/56

b7C

Rerep of SA [REDACTED] dated as above,  
 NY, four copies of which are enclosed.

Bureau authority is requested to interview  
 captioned subject about whom the following information  
 is furnished:

1) The subject is a member of the Negro race,  
 who resides at 652 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, NY, and is  
 self-employed as a writer at his residence.

2) The subject is married to GRACE KILLENS, who  
 is a member of the Negro race and is employed by Edwards  
 L. Cleaveland Day Care Center, 1185 Park Place, Brooklyn,  
 NY.

3) The following information concerning the  
 subject was obtained from reliable informants and interviews  
 of the subject on the dates indicated:

2/26/42

Subject was interviewed under oath  
 during the course of an investigation  
 under the provisions of the Hatch  
 Act, at which time he admitted  
 having been a member of the  
 Washington Committee for Democratic  
 Action; admitted being a delegate  
 to the American Youth Congress in  
 1941; and admitted participation  
 in the activities of the National  
 Negro Congress, but that he was never  
 an active member of this organization.

August, 1946  
 October, 1946

One JOHN O. KILLENS was Commander  
 of the Washington Chapter of the  
 United Negro and Allied Veterans  
 of America.

12/13/47

Subject's name appeared among names  
 contained in the expired membership  
 list of Washington Bookshop Association.

2 - Bureau (105-37137) (Encs. 4) (RM)  
 1 - NY 100-102397

CMH:mfw  
 (3)

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JUN 19 1956

SUBV. CONTROL

DIRECTOR, FBI

Re: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
SM-C

✓ 8/29/51

Subject, upon interview, advised that he was acquainted with JAMES EDWARD JACKSON [REDACTED]

b7C

✓ 3/10/55

Subject registered a preference for the American Labor Party for the years 1950 through 1952.

2/3/55

Subject made short talk regarding his book, "Young Blood," at a social of the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council on 1/22/55, held at Los Angeles, California.

✓ 12/3/55  
1/11/56

Subject featured speaker re desegregation, civil rights, Negro problems, and his book, "Young Blood," at "Friday Forum" held at Melrose Park, Pennsylvania, on 12/9/55.

2/15/56

Subject elected as member-at-large on the staff of the Brooklyn NAACP in December, 1955.

5/1/56

Subject active in Brooklyn, NY, chapter NAACP.

b7C

[REDACTED]

Informants, who have furnished reliable information in the past, furnished information reflecting [REDACTED] was employed by New Age Publishers, Inc., publishers of "Weekly Review," reported as YCL publication in NYC 1942-1943; employed by Amtorg Trading Corporation, NYC, 1942; employed as a receptionist with United Public Workers of America (UPWA), Washington, D.C., 1947-1949; employed as a secretary, Bulgarian Legation, Washington, D.C., March, 1948; and employed

b7C

DIRECTOR, FBI

Re: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
SM-C

with UPWA at various locations, NYC, 1949-1952. [redacted]  
[redacted] was named as CP member in material in possession of  
RALPH GLICK, CP underground leader, NYC, in November,  
1954.

b7C

[redacted] was interviewed on 8/19/54, and was  
uncooperative.

5) There is no information available indicating  
that any of subject's immediate relatives other than [redacted]  
[redacted] have been members of a basic revolutionary group..

6) There is no information available indicating  
that the subject has defected or been expelled from the  
CP.

7) It is believed that an interview with the  
subject could provide information regarding his past  
connections with the CP and related front groups, as well  
as indicate his present sympathies toward the Communist  
movement.

Bureau authority is requested to interview the  
subject in accordance with existing instructions relating  
to interviews of security subjects. If the subject is  
cooperative, no affirmative steps will be taken during  
the initial interview to direct his activities, but a  
separate communication will be directed to the Bureau  
setting forth the results of the interview and requesting  
Bureau authority to recontact the subject as a potential  
security informant.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reporting Office <b>NEW YORK</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>6/15/56</b>	12/27-30; 1/3, 4, 10, 27; 2/15, 16; 3/6, 15, 29; 4/3, 9, 27; 5/1, 2, 8, 18, 28, 29/56
TITLE OF CASE <b>JOHN OLIVER KILLENS</b>		Character of Case <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>	Initials <b>mfw</b>
I <u>11/21/02</u> <u>SPAMLY/kt</u>		b7C	

Synopsis

Subject resides at 652 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, NY, and is self-employed as a writer. Subject reliably reported to have been featured speaker at "Friday Forum" held at Melrose Park, Pennsylvania, on 12/9/55. Subject reliably reported elected as member-at-large on staff of Brooklyn, NY, NAACP in December, 1955, and as of 5/1/56, active in recruiting new members in NAACP in Brooklyn. Subject's book, "Young Blood," reviewed by "Daily Worker" 4/5/56.

- P -

## DETAILS:

### I BACKGROUND

#### A. Residence

On March 29, 1956, a pretext telephone call was made by a Special Agent of the FBI at 652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, telephone number ST 9-5428.

ENCLOSURE

TO: <u>US/H</u>
REQ REC'D. <u>7-18-61</u>
ANS. <u>AUG 3 1961</u>
BY <u>35</u> <u>cd</u>

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made		<u>105-37137-10</u>	
4 - Bureau (105-37137) (RM)		29 JUN 19 1956	INDEXED 44 RECORDED 44
3 - New York (100-102397)			
COPIES DESTROYED 13 MAY 15 1972		SUBV. CONTROL	
AGENCY		AGENCY <u>100-SPD</u>	
RE		REQ REC'D <u>2/20/70</u>	
BY		REPT FORW <u>3/16/70</u>	
		BY <u>JH 357</u>	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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NY 100-102397

The person answering the call identified himself as JOHN KILLENS, and advised that he resides at the above address.

B. Employment

On March 29, 1956, a pretext telephone call was made by a Special Agent of the FBI to 652 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, telephone number ST 9-5428. The person answering the call identified himself as JOHN KILLENS, and advised that he was employed at home as a writer, and that he was getting a new book ready for publication.

II AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

A. Miscellaneous Communist Party (CP) Activities

The CP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

1) "Friday Forum"

[ ] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the "Friday Forum" is a Philadelphia neighborhood discussion group composed of a nucleus of Communists.

b2

[ ] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on December 13, 1955, and January 11, 1956, that the subject was the featured speaker of the "Friday Forum" held at Melrose Park, Pennsylvania, on December 9, 1955. According to [ ] during the course of his speech, the subject elaborated on the following issues:

b7D

Discussion of a number of ~~incidents~~ occurring

in the South in which the civil rights of Negroes were violated.

Desegregation in the schools, and efforts by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to aid the Negro.

The subject also read a chapter from his new novel, which is now in preparation. This novel deals with the problems of Negro soldiers during World War II, and according to the subject, most of the action takes place in the South Pacific where the subject was stationed during the war.

After the speech, a discussion period was begun, and the following questions were propounded for the subject's consideration:

An unknown individual asked the subject what he thought of civil disobedience by Negroes suggested by one NAACP official as a solution to the problems of the Negroes. KILLENS said he was opposed to such a policy, that the Negroes did not have enough power to make it effective, and that such a policy would lead only to mass retaliation by the whites and make conditions for the Negroes worse than they are now.

Another individual, unknown to [ ] then asked KILLENS if he had incurred any difficulty in getting his book, "Young Blood," published. KILLENS stated that suprisingly he had had no trouble. He stated that he had contacted the "paperback" publishers first, that they had been impressed, and had given him an advance on the book. As things turned out, however, the hard back copy of his book was published first.

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KILLENS was then asked what he thought of ADAM CLAYTON POWELL attending the Bandung Conference as an independent delegate. KILLENS stated he felt that POWELL was strictly an "Uncle Tom" type of Negro, was doing the Negroes a disservice, and was a traitor to the Negro people. He commented that Congressman DIGGS, from Michigan,

was one Negro who was really fighting for his people.' He pointed out that DIGGS had publicly announced he was going to challenge each Representative and Senator from Mississippi as to their rights to their Congressional seats, because Negroes in Mississippi were not allowed to vote. DIGGS maintained that since Negroes could not vote, the Congressman from Mississippi did not represent the people.

KILLENS was then asked his opinion regarding "Porgy and Bess" being presented overseas under the auspices of the State Department. He answered that while he enjoyed the show's music, he had always felt the subject material of the show degraded the Negroes. He added that he felt the Negroes who play in "Porgy and Bess" are opportunists who place their theatrical careers above the damage caused by the show to the Negro people as a whole.

### III MISCELLANEOUS

[ ] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on February 15, 1956, that the subject, in December, 1955, was elected as a member-at-large on the staff of the Brooklyn, New York, NAACP.

[ ] on May 1, 1956, advised that he last saw KILLENS about one week ago on the street in Brooklyn, New York. [ ] stated that at this time KILLENS told [ ] that he is active in the Brooklyn chapter of the NAACP, which is now in the midst of a recruiting and membership drive. [ ] further advised that KILLENS stated that he is a Captain in this drive, and that he was then trying to get ten other persons to work with him in recruiting new NAACP members.

b2

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The "Daily Worker," issue of April 5, 1956, page 7, columns 2 and 3, gives a review of the novel, "Young Blood," by JOHN O. KILLENS, which was printed a couple of years ago and is now out in a paperback edition. According to the review, this novel depicts

C O N F I D E N T I A L

NY 100-102397

a Southern Negro family's struggle against "Jim Crowism." The review indicated that it was a better book on the **enlightenment** of anyone puzzled by what is going on in Montgomery, Alabama, these days and elsewhere in the South." This review urged the reader to buy a copy of the novel and give it to his neighbors.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist daily newspaper.

Other informants, who have furnished reliable information in the past and who are familiar with some phases of Communist activities in the New York area, were contacted in December, 1955, January, February, and April, 1956, with negative results.

was recontacted on April 30, 1956, advised that he had no recollection of KILLENS making any statements on December 9, 1955, indicating KILLENS was connected with the Brooklyn, New York, NAACP.

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- P -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 5 -

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity Or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
NY 100-102397	Used to document "Friday Forum"			
	Subject speaker at "Friday Forum" 12/9/55	12/13/55	(orally)	
	"	1/11/56	(written)	
	Negative contact re subject	4/30/56		100-102397-46
	Subject elected member-at-large Brooklyn, NY, NAACP	2/15/56	(orally)	100-102397-44
	Subject active in Brooklyn NAACP	5/1/56	(orally)	100-102397-48

b2

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b2

b7D

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Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

NY informants mentioned in the details of this report as being contacted with negative results are as follows:

INFORMANTDATEAGENT

12/27/55  
12/28/55  
12/29/55  
12/30/55  
1/4/56  
1/10/56  
1/10/56  
1/10/56  
2/16/56  
4/27/56  
4/27/56

RICHARD H. BLASSER  
RICHARD H. BLASSER

RICHARD H. BLASSER  
ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON

JOHN E. GALLAGHER, JR.

b7C

NY 100-102397

INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

In addition to the above informants, [redacted] was contacted by SA [redacted] on 1/3/56. [redacted] advised that he had no new information concerning the subject.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

The pretext telephone call made to 652 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, NY, telephone #ST 9-5428, mentioned in the details under residence and employment, was made by SA [redacted] on 3/29/56. The manner of pretext employed was [redacted]

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b7E

On 12/12/55, [redacted] furnished information with reference to a meeting of "Section Organizers" of Kings County CP held that evening at headquarters, 1212 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY. The meeting proper was begun by GEORGE (believed to be GEORGE KIRSCHNER) and his remarks concerned political events which are being scheduled to occur including: the Brooklyn elections in the N double A (believed to be NAACP). GEORGE pointed out that the Negro leaders in Brooklyn want to unseat "President Norman Johnson and we believe it is a good effort. Johnson should step aside. The ministers are against Johnson." George mentioned that a meeting with reference to the "N double A elections" was to occur at Public School 35, Decatur St. and Lewis Ave. (no dates specified). GEORGE said that "we would like to see the slate of Reverend Shockley (ph) win. Negro leaders want to unseat Johnson and we think it is a good effort." GEORGE observed that of those on the JOHNSON slate, one JOHNNY KULLEM (ph) running against MC CABE (ph) should be salvaged. "Vote for the Shockley (ph) slate, except McCabe."

b2

It is to be noted that [redacted] advised on 2/15/56 that the subject was elected as a member-at-large on the staff of the Brooklyn NAACP in December, 1955.

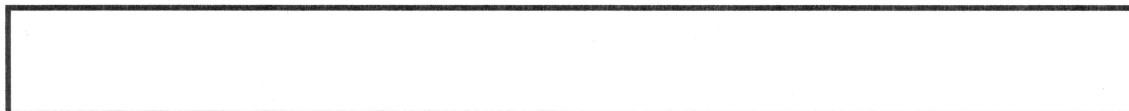
b2

b7D

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

NY 100-102397

ADMINISTRATIVE (CONT'D)



b7C

LEAD

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

(1) Will await Bureau authority concerning request to interview subject.

REFERENCES

Report of SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES. 10/12/55, NY.  
Report of SA [REDACTED] 12/2/55, NY. b7C  
Report of SA [REDACTED] 12/27/55, NY.  
NY letter to Bureau, 1/27/56.  
Memorandum of SA [REDACTED] to SAC, PHILADELPHIA,  
2/9/56, captioned, "FRIDAY FORUM; IS-C," one copy  
to NYO.  
NY letter to the Bureau, 4/9/56.  
Philadelphia letter to NY, 5/8/56.  
NY letter to Philadelphia, 5/8/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D)

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)  
 FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397)  
 SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
 SM-C

DATE: 7/16/56

CF  
7/20

ReBulet to NY, 6/27/56.

ReBulet denied authority to interview subject.

Inasmuch as there is no evidence of actual CP activity on behalf of the subject and subject's activities do not come within the purview of the criteria for his inclusion on the SI, the NYO is placing this case in a closed status.

This office will be alert to any information warranting the prompt reopening of this case.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 4/21/02 BY 292 mvt/cpt

RECORDED-95

105-37137-11

16 JUL 18 1956

- 2 - Bureau (105-37137) (RM)  
 1 - New York (100-102397)

CMH:amk  
 (3)

208AEB2-AL 14600  
 HEF  
 3 33 6W 28  
 SUBV. CONTROL

F354  
 5 JUL 23 1956



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)

DATE 7/26/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397)

SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS  
SM-CRerep SA [redacted] at New York, 6/15/56,  
and Bulet 6/27/56.

b7C

Captioned case has been reopened on the basis of information from [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, naming the subject as a current CP member.

b2

b7D

Investigation is presently being conducted by the NYO to determine the nature and extent of the subject's CP activity. At the conclusion of this investigation, the NYO will submit a report together with recommendations concerning interview of the subject and his inclusion on the Security Index.

2-Bureau (105-37137) (RM)  
1-New York (100-102397)

CWC:mlg  
(3)

9/30/57  
11/21/02  
SP2 mls/cab

RECORDED - 12

EX-105

105-37137-12

17 JUL 30 1957

SUBV. CONTROL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO

SAC, ~~New York~~ **New York**(Your file *100-102347* DATE *'35*)

FROM

Director, FBI

(Bufile and serial *100-37137*)ESP  
SUBJECT

SUBJECT

*John Oliver Killard*Office of Origin: **New York**

1. ( ) The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to submit a report immediately. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau, Room No. *1212*

Report submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Report will be submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for delay \_\_\_\_\_

*by 10/18/57. Case under investigation re allegation of current CP membership.*

2. ( ) Advise Bureau re status of this case.
3. ( ) Advise Bureau when report may be expected.
4. ( ) Surep immediately.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

FD-205 (3-23-55)

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

(File 100-37137)

DATE:

10/17/57

FROM : SAC, New York

(File 100-122397)

SUBJECT JOHN OLIVER KILLENS

SIN C

This case will be delinquent.

Date of Bureau deadline: 10/18/57

Reason for the delinquency:

REPORT TO BE DICTATED 10/18/57

Date the report or necessary communication  
will reach the Bureau:

10/25/57

AEC zone designation, e.g., OR, CH, etc.:  
(This applies only to 116 cases.)

TSM/

11/21/02 522 MCT/201

SUBV. CONTROL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <b>NEW YORK</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>10/31/57</b>	Investigative Period <b>9/16;10/2, 4,7,9-11,14-17/57</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JOHN OLIVER KILLENS</b>  <i>SP2MLT/cpt</i> <i>11/21/62</i>		Report made by <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	Typed By: <b>mam</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>  <i>6 1, 2, 4</i>	

**Synopsis:**

Subject resides 1392 Union St., Bklyn, NY, and is engaged as a writer and public speaker. Informant, on 10/11/57, advised KILLENS, in 1952, was active on Executive Board of Bedford-Stuyvesant Section of Kings County CP, and informant stated he believes KILLENS to still be CP member because of latter's contacts with two known active CP members. Informant, on 6/7/56, advised that KILLENS was invited to attend a "Conference on the South" to be held 6/30/56 at JSSS under the auspices of the National Organization Department and the National Negro Commission of the CP. Informants advised subject gave public speech at meeting of Washington Area Citizens Forum held in Washington, D.C. on 2/15/57.

CC TO: LSH  
REQ. REC'D 2-18-61  
AUG 3 1961  
ANB.  
BY: *[Signature]*

*Re disclaimer The Kitchens*

Cpy to State  
by 1A-1-65  
HWK/can

- C -

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:  4 - Bureau (105-37137) (RM) 3 - New York (100-102397)		105-37137-13	RECORDED-38
AGENCY <u>1A</u>		14 NOV 1 1957	EX. 137
COPIES DESTROYED		SUBV CONTROL	

COPIES DESTROYED

13 MAY 15 1972

68 NOV 13 1957

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AGENCY 100 LPO  
REQ REC'D 2/20/70  
REP T FORW 3/6/70  
BY [Signature]

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

NY 100-102397

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

By means of a pretext telephone call placed by a Special Agent of the FBI on March 29, 1956, to ST 9-5428, telephone number listed in the 1956 Brooklyn telephone directory to JOHN KILLENS, 652 Lafayette Avenue, it was ascertained at that time that the subject resided at the above address.

[ ] on October 16, 1957, advised that the subject, on July 16, 1956, moved from 652 Lafayette Avenue to 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York.

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By means of a pretext interview on October 17, 1957, conducted by a Special Agent of the FBI with an unknown individual residing at 1388 Union Street, it was ascertained that the subject continues to reside at 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York.

B. Employment

By means of the above described pretext telephone call placed on March 29, 1956, it was ascertained that the subject was employed at home as a writer, and that he was getting a new book ready for publication.

By means of the above described pretext interview conducted on October 17, 1957, with a neighbor of the subject, it was ascertained that the subject spends most of his time at home, and is engaged as a writer and public speaker.

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY (CP)  
MOVEMENT

The CP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

NY 100-102397

A. Evidence of CP Membership

[ ] on October 11, 1957, advised that JOHN KILLENS, in 1952, was active on the Executive Board of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Section of the Kings County CP, New York. [ ] stated that the above information was told to him in 1952 by a niece of JOHN KILLENS, named [ ] whom [ ] knew in 1952 to be active in the Labor Youth League (LYL).

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The informant continued that he has no additional concrete information that would place KILLENS in the CP but averred that it is his belief that KILLENS is presently a CP member. He explained that his belief is based upon the frequency with which the subject is contacted by [ ] both of whom are known to the informant as current active members of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Section of the CP and because of the personalized inclusive pronouns used by these individuals (such as we, us and our) when referring to KILLENS and the CP.

b7C

The LYL has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[ ] on June 4, 1956, advised that the CP, USA, on June 1, 1956, had issued a bulletin "to all districts" which bulletin was signed by the National Organization Department and the National Negro Commission of the CP describing an important "Conference on the South" to be held at the Jefferson School of Social Science (JSSS) on June 30, 1956.

b2

The JSSS has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

NY 100-102397

[redacted] on June 7, 1956, advised that [redacted] was to be in charge of the supervision of the above described conference to be held at the JSSS on June 30, 1956. According to the informant, the name JOHN KILLENS of Brooklyn appeared on a list in the possession of [redacted] which list contained names of those individuals to whom invitations were to be extended to attend the above described conference.

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[redacted] on February 13, 1957, advised that [redacted] was elected as a member of the National Committee of the CP, USA at the National Convention of the CP, USA held February 9-12, 1957, at the Chateau Gardens, 105 East Houston Street, New York City.

B. Evidence of Membership in or Sympathy with CP Front Organizations

1. The Washington Area Forum, aka: Washington Area Citizens Forum, Washington Citizens Forum

(See Appendix)

[redacted] on February 11, 1957, made available a "flyer" reflecting that JOHN O. KILLENS, author of "Youngblood" would be a speaker at a meeting sponsored by the Washington Area Citizens Forum in Washington, D.C., on February 15, 1957.

b2

b7D

The below listed informants, on indicated dates, advised that JOHN O. KILLENS, on February 15, 1957, appeared at, and spoke at, a meeting of the Washington Area Forum in Washington, D.C. According to the informants, KILLENS speech traced the progress made by the Negro people in the field of culture and education.

NY 100-102397

b2

b7D

[REDACTED] on February 19, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 18, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 18, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 18, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 19, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 19, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 19, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 16, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 18, 1957  
[REDACTED] on February 18, 1957

[REDACTED] on February 16, 1957, advised that  
JOHN KILLENS, for his appearance at the above described  
meeting on February 15, 1957. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on March 25, 1957, advised that the  
subject. on February 15, 1957. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b7D

The above described information was made  
available on a confidential basis and cannot be made  
public except upon the issuance of a subpoena duces  
tecum.

### III. MISCELLANEOUS

Other informants who are familiar with some  
phases of Communist activities in the New York City area  
were contacted in September and October, 1957, for  
information concerning the subject with negative results.